

NSC BRIEFING

28 January 1954

INDOCHINA

I. French expect attack Dien Bien Phu by
30 January.

- A. VM numerical advantage.
- B. French worried VM firepower.
- C. Rumors heavier artillery.
- D. VM may try only probing attacks.
- E. Alternative Northern Laos.

II. French request more US air aid.

- A. Retain 12 C-119's.
- B. Reinforce two B-26 groups, add
25 more for third group.
- C. 400 US ground personnel.
- D. Comment -- French always short
ground personnel, but C-119
unsuitable Indochina.

25X1X7

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III. Operation in southern Annam to clear coast.

- A. French occupied Tuy Hoa 20 January.
- B. In current operational area, some 18,000 French Union troops versus estimated 5,600 VM regulars.
- C. French hope eventually clear 250-mile coastal strip Nha Trang to Tourane. In whole area, VM regulars total some 14,000.
- D. Unless permanently occupied, VM will return.

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Dien Bien Phu had 6 days of food and 30 days of ammunition on hand on 4 January. Since that time the French have continued to fly in 200 tons of all types of supplies per day and to consume only 83 tons. Presumably little ammunition has been expended since that date. It is believed that 4,600 ^{additional} tons of all types of supplies have been accumulated.

It would be assumed in view of the disparity between food and ammunition on 4 January that emphasis since that date would have been placed on the former and that currently at least 15 days' supply of food is on hand.

This is an estimate since no firm information is available.

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